Dear Dave (and), 1/3/77

Your 12/29 and 12/30 here today. We have not been closer that 25° to your 20- except in wind-chill, when we were below that. I'm staying in except for short walks and going for the papers and mail, etc., and getting my exercise with the exercycle. Having nok kids to worry about we also keep the temperature in the house what most would consider low and avoid consequences of dryness. So to date the only real problem from the unseasonal cold is that I could not dig up a cedar I wanted to transplant for anx living Xmas tree and can't dig a hole in which to plant the one I bought - a blue spruce that hasn't blued yet.

In my opinion your perception of Lane and his role or career is accurate, really enormously understated. Yet the danger of extrapolation is great, as is the inherent unfairness of a blast by the Skolnickeri. It is an extraordinarily difficult thing to reach a proper balance there is so much insanity and self-service, the two with this pair inextricable. Much as I might relish the disconcerting effect of one disinformationist on another I have difficulty believing the Skolnickeri are either fair or in contact with reality.

In this, if I amy pretend the trappings of scholarship which I do not have, I am suggesting that the task you have undertaken may be more difficult and complicated than you may yet see. As you get into it you will. One problem when so many deserve so much criticism is not letting anger or emotion carry us away.

I have files on just about all these people having had such scholarship as you now project in mind. On some they are scant. Like Dusty Rhoads, who gathered many signatures.

At some future time I will address this other than you do, so you are welcome to all I have if you get a contract for the book. I'll profit from some very good advice from Jim, not to let me anger , disgust and contempt show and treat him like The Foundling Father.

If you do get a contract, feel completely free to use whateveryou may want of the rough draft I did that you converted into scholarship. I think if it could be condensed the New York Review might go for it.

On Lane and footnotes: recommend you get in touch with Wesley Liebeler, who had a crew of students checking them out. It is not only that wha they said is what you say, they may have done extensive work and kept records. I can give you footnotes to non-existing sources not corrected in the reprpint when he promised it. And the tape making the promise, on a TV show.

Before this is over, if you are old enough or have seen the silents, you may want to go for The Mark of Zoro. A concept. I may want to use the title. Old Doug Fairbanks, kiddo.

I am uneasy about the title When Critics Fail. I think it will not mean enough to most people. Nothing wrong with the idea but I fear the title does not convey it.

Also for your understanding of Lane, I agree he is evil. I am not certain that is the rock base. I think this is that he is sick, emotionally sick. Able, depraved, etc. But really sick, especially in the ego.

Twice I have considered books similar to your project. When he was about to abort a N.O. trial I drafted (bad title) A Citizen's Rescent." On Garrison I came to conceive Lemming: The Mardi Gras Solutions to Political Assassinations. So I think the idea is a good one. Not now for me because other matters are more important to me.

Good luck to you with it and feel free to use all I have.

With each addition to the rapidly growing stack of papers I become more convinced that for the law school this King file along will be of extraordinary importance. When the deliberate dishonesties of the official pleadings is added the impirtance becomes much greater. And comprehensible. Best to you all and thanks,